

The background of the entire image consists of numerous light blue rays radiating outwards from a central point, creating a sunburst or starburst effect. The rays vary in length and angle, filling the entire frame.

**BETTER GOVERNMENT  
STARTS WITH YOU**

**BGA**

**Shining a Light on Government and  
Holding Public Officials Accountable**

**The Better Government Association (BGA) is committed to ensuring that public resources are spent for the public good — not for private or political gain.**

**The BGA process is comprehensive and includes journalistic investigations, advocacy and civic engagement:**



## *What does the BGA mean to you?*

*We are at a critical moment, with government in crisis at all levels, and the BGA represents one of our best hopes for achieving more fairness, accountability, integrity, transparency and honesty from our public officials.*

**Richard H. Drieaus, Drieaus Capital Management LLC, BGA Donor**

*The BGA serves as an important vehicle through which Illinois citizens can push back against a culture of corruption that has infiltrated key aspects of our government.*

**Patrick Collins, Perkins Cole, BGA Board Member**

*I became involved as a BGA watchdog after seeing firsthand how local governments try to keep people in the dark about their dealings, salaries, political contributions—the list could go on and on. The BGA helps the average citizen keep an eye on their own towns and villages.*

**Barbara Piltaver, Schiller Park, BGA Citizen Watchdog**

# HOW CAN YOU HELP US MAKE GOVERNMENT MORE HONEST, TRANSPARENT AND EFFICIENT?

## ► BE INFORMED

The BGA provides you fact-based, objective information so that you can be an aware and active citizen. For reliable information on critical government issues, visit our website at [www.bettergov.org](http://www.bettergov.org), attend BGA issue forums and read BGA investigations.

## ► SUBMIT A TIP

It's your tips that launch many BGA investigations. Call 312-427-8330, visit [www.bettergov.org](http://www.bettergov.org) or email [info@bettergov.org](mailto:info@bettergov.org) to submit a tip, and our Investigative Unit will follow up with you.

## ► BE A WATCHDOG

The BGA's Citizen Watchdog Training empowers you to improve government through responsible citizen action. These free training sessions teach you how to file Freedom of Information Act requests, analyze government budgets, know your rights under the Open Meetings Act and much more. You can find upcoming training dates at [www.bettergov.org](http://www.bettergov.org).

## ► RESPOND TO BGA ACTION ALERTS

The BGA gives you the tools to take action when change is needed. Building on the results of investigations, our Policy Unit proposes reforms, organizes citizen action campaigns and provides easy ways to contact your elected officials. Visit us online to find out more.

## ► SUPPORT THE BGA

Add your voice to thousands of others holding public officials accountable. Become a BGA member and demand the kind of government we deserve — one that is honest, transparent and efficient.

**It starts with you.**  
**Join the campaign for better government.**  
**Become a BGA member.**

## BGA'S MISSION

The BGA promotes integrity, transparency and accountability in government by exposing waste, fraud and corruption, advocating effective public policy and engaging the community.

## BGA'S GOALS

- Hold public officials accountable
- Advocate for honest and efficient government
- Inform citizens with reliable information
- Engage citizens in the democratic process

## BGA METHODS

- Investigations
- Advocacy
- Civic Engagement
- Litigation
- Education

# REASONS TO JOIN THE BGA

## 1. The BGA has a distinguished history of accomplishment.

The BGA has a proven record of unbiased, nonpartisan investigations that lead to major reforms in state and local government. Founded in 1923, the BGA uses its in-depth investigations and dynamic storytelling to shine a light on bad government and to lay the foundation for mobilizing citizens in campaigns to effect change.

## 2. The BGA encourages meaningful civic engagement in the democratic process.

At the core of the BGA's mission and activities is a belief that state and local governments make better (and more honest) decisions and have greater impact when there's an increase in civic engagement. The BGA is committed to providing reliable information through investigations, analyses, training programs and public forums to give citizens the information and tools they need to affect the workings of their governments in an active and responsible way.

## 3. The BGA adds value to its efforts by maintaining strong collaborations.

The BGA works under the principle that collaborations strengthen our efforts and conserve limited resources. We have established strong relationships with media partners. We also work with local community organizations on our Citizen Watchdog Training programs and collaborate with civic associations and coalitions throughout the state of Illinois and nationally in advocating for reform.

## 4. The BGA does not accept money from elected officials, candidates for public office or political parties.

The BGA is independent and unbiased in its investigations and advocacy.

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